SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND RAJPUTANA,

Received up to 17th March 1890.

POLITICAL.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 14th March, states that Mr. Bradlaugh declared in his Comments on Lord Cross' Indian Councils Bill. Bombay speech that perhaps the ministry would forestall him and itself introduce a Bill for the reform of the Indian Councils. His surmise was well-founded. A Bill has been introduced by Lord Cross. Faulty though the Bill be, yet it cannot but be considered a great triumph for the National Evidently his lordship would never have thought of reforming the Indian Councils but for the persistent Congress agitation for the last five years. There is every reason to hope that the natives will before long obtain those important privileges which were secured by Englishmen with great difficulty. If Lord Cross' Bill were passed in its present form, the natives would be justified in saying that they asked for bread but were given a stone, as has been remarked by Mr. Hume. His lordship has fixed the minimum number of Additional Members of the Supreme Legislative Council at 10, and the maximum number at 16; and the minimum and maximum numbers for the Bombay and Madras Councils at 8 and 20, and

Circulatnon, 415 copiles. for the other provincial councils at 15 and 20. According to the existing law, the number of Additional Members in the Viceroy's Legislative Council should not be less than 6 nor more than 10. The Bill provides for an increase of 6 in the number of Members, the grant of the right of interpellation, and the introduction of the budget in the Legislative Council. The provisions of the Bill are good, so far as they go, but they do not go far enough. The measure is marked by two great defects. the increase proposed in the number of Members is very small-200 millions of men are to be represented by 16 Members, or, in other words, one Member will represent 12½ millions of the population: secondly, the Members being all Government nominees, will not enjoy the confidence of the people. will naturally be averse to opposing any Government measure for fear of incurring the displeasure of Government and losing their membership. The right of interpellation is a very valuable one, but it can be of no practical utility unless there are independent Members to exercise it. It is to be hoped that Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill will induce Parliament to sanction election in one shape or another. The debate in the House of Lords on the introduction of Lord Cross' Bill was very encouraging. The Hindustán refers to the opinions expressed by Lord Northbrook, Lord Ripon, Lord Kimberley and Lord Granville in favour of the elective system, and hopes that the representations of the Congress deputation to England will have the desired effect on the minds of the Members of Parliament.

Circulation, 360 copies. The Hindustáni (Lucknow), of the 9th March, gives the substance of the debate in the House of Lords on Lord Cross' Indian Councils Bill, and expresses great satisfaction that Lord Ripon, Lord Kimberley, Lord Northbrook and Lord Granville are in favour of election. Their lordships, with the exception of Lord Granville, have had some Indian experience, but neither Lord Cross nor Lord Salisbury can boast of such experience. Government is sure to introduce some kind of election if pressure is brought to bear on it in Parliament. It is time that the natives should make united efforts and strengthen the hands of their friends in England.

The Azád (Lucknow), of the 14th March, observes that

Mr. Hume is not justified in saying that all India disapproves of Lord Cross' Bill. The Congressists form but a small portion of the entire population. Both the Hindus and the Musalmans are satisfied with the nomination system, and it is to be hoped that Government will not allow itself to be deceived by Mr. Hume's misrepresentations.

Circulation, 240 copies.

The Oudh Akhbár (Lucknow), of the 11th March, adverting to Mr. Bradlaugh's Indian Mr. Bradlaugh's Indian Councils Bill. Councils Bill, observes that Mr. Bradlaugh cannot be considered a statesman, simply because he is a Member of Parliament. Lord Lansdowne, who has seen the working of the representative system in Canada, is better qualified to judge whether that system is suited to this country or not than Mr. Bradlaugh. Lord Cross has naturally been induced to attach more weight to the opinion of Lord Lansdowne than to that of Lord Dufferin, who recommended the introduction of the elective system on a limited scale. Under these circumstances Mr. Bradlaugh cannot do better than to withdraw his Bill.

Circulation, 550 copies.

The Oudh Akhbár (Lucknow), of the 12th March, observes that a Bengali mendicant at Mirzapur Condemnation of the has published a long letter in the letter published by a Bengali mendicant in the Morning Post, in which he declares that Morning Post. widespread discontent exists in the country, and advises Government to grant the requests of the National Congress. It will be remembered that one or two years before the establishment of the Congress, an anonymous pamphlet under the name of the "Star in the East" was published. The pamphlet was full of similar threats and warnings. But such foolish writings have no effect on the minds of the people, who thoroughly appreciate the advantages of British rule and are loyal to the core. Government had better treat the writings with the contempt they deserve. If the writers were prosecuted, they would assume the rôle of martyrs, and the Congressists would raise a hue and cry.

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Circulation, 550 copies.

The same paper observes that natives cannot fully appreciate the blessings which they enjoy British rule compared with French rule. under the British Government until they compare it with other Governments. The British Government, which pursues a policy of justice and conciliation, rules over 250 millions of men with the aid of only 60,000 British soldiers. On the other hand, the French Government has to maintain a garrison of 50,000 French troops in Algiers, whose population does not exceed 3,500,000. The fact is that great dissatisfaction prevails among the Arabs in that country, as the French are forcibly turning them out of their lands and themselves occupying them. When any lands are required for public purposes in this country, Government never occupies them without paying suitable compensation to the owners.

ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 415 copies.

The Hindustan (Kálikankar), of the 11th March, referring to the case of the European sol-The Dum Dum murder case. dier who killed a Musalmán at Dum Dum, and was sentenced to death by Mr. Justice Norris, observes that the decision was quite unexpected, as the British courts in this country are generally unable to dispense evenhanded justice in mixed cases. An appeal has been instituted against Mr. Justice Norris' sentence, and the Anglo-Indians in all parts of Bengal have raised a wild clamour and urged Government to acquit the soldier. The Hindustán is not opposed to the soldier's acquittal, and would even be glad if he were released. But unprejudiced Englishmen can judge how far race feeling has blinded the Anglo-Indians. Government is pressed by them to release the soldier in utter disregard of the circumstance that he killed an innocent man, and that his release would be an encouragement to other soldiers and would bring British justice into disrepute. It remains to be seen whether Government will remain firm or will yield to race feeling.

Circulation. 250 copies.

Comments on the opinion expressed by the Local Government regarding the native newspapers.

The Alam-i-Taswir (Cawnpore), of the 11th March, gives an Urdu translation of the strictures made in the last Provincial Administration Report on the native newsof these provinces, papers

thanks the Lieutenant Governor for his remark, to the effect that the native newspapers of these provinces are, to a certain extent, exempt from the excesses which mark the newspapers of other provinces and that their tone is rather moderate. The A'lam-i-Taswir concurs with His Honor in thinking that there is a tendency among the native newspapers of these provinces to assume an objectionable tone, and that they cannot guide Government in any way. Undoubtedly there are some newspapers which levy blackmail from respectable persons, as has been observed by His Honor. Notices are often given by respectable persons in newspapers, to the effect that they have repeatedly told certain editors not to send their journals to them, but that the editors still continue to do so. However, the number of the native newspapers, which are conducted by needy men and practice extortion is extremely small. His Honor has made a mistake in saying that the native newspapers are generally in the hands of needy men. No less than seventy-five per cent. of the native newspapers are owned by well-to-do persons, who are anxious to promote good feeling between Government and the people and to encourage social reform.

The Cawnpore correspondent of the Hindustáni (Lucknow), of the 9th March, regrets to say The Municipal administhat the members of the Cawnpore tration, Cawnpore. Municipal Board, as a rule, do not understand their duties and responsibilities, and think that their chief duty consists in readily supporting any proposals made by the Chairman. is a matter of great satisfaction that some members have lately shown a desire to perform their duties conscientiously. The 26th of February, on which date a special meeting was held at the request of some members, will be a memorable day in the history of Municipal administration of Cawnpore. No such meeting had ever been held before at that place. Indeed, a majority of the members were not even aware that they could call a special meeting. The proceedings of the special meeting of the 26th February were conducted in a very satisfactory manner, and the Chairman expressed his satisfaction at them. As the Municipal elections take place on the 14th March, some public-spirited gentlemen have

Circulation, 300 copies. began to deliver lectures with a view to explain the principles of Municipal administration and the duties and responsibilities of the members and voters, and to point out what kind of men should be elected members. Three or four such lectures have already been delivered. On the other hand, the officials, too, are up and doing. An official sent for two pleaders and asked them to sign the nomination roll of Mr. J. M. Wright, the Joint Magistrate. Of course the pleaders signed the roll in order to avoid incurring his displeasure. Are Government officials exempt from the operation of the orders issued by the Local Government in connection with the elections at Benares? It remains to be seen what undue pressure will be brought to bear on the voters at the time of election. The district officers are making efforts to secure the re-election of Babu Mahendra Náth Gangoli, Assistant Surgeon, who is not popular with the people, as a Municipal Commissioner, owing to his subserviency.

Circulation, 415 copies. The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 13th March, observes
that seventeen Hindus have sued Mr.
Beadon and ten Musalmáns for the
recovery of damages, amounting to a lakh rupees, on account
of the demolition of the Durbhanga temple. It is difficult
to foretell the result of the suit, but there is good reason to
think that Mr. Beadon will not escape scot-free. Sir Steuart
Bayley and Mr. Pitambar Chatarji are entitled to the special
gratitude of the people; the former for ordering a thorough
inquiry into the case, and the latter for his able address to
the court. His address shows that Mr. Pitambar Chatarji is
not much inferior to Mr. W. C. Bonnerji in ability.

Circulation, 400 copies The Prayág Samáchár (Allahabad), of the 10th March,
adverting to the Lieutenant-Governor's
late tour in the Bánda late Bánda tour, observes that His
district.

Honor paid a visit to the exhibition held

at Banda, and was engaged in sport at Kalyanpur. He had interviews with native princes and landlords, but the poorer classes had no access to him. Sir Auckland Colvin should have made himself freely accessible to the people and asked

them if they had any grievances. The official tours, as at present conducted, only add to the miseries of the people.

The alleged occurrence ticularly in the Mau tahsíl, serious of riots in the Bánda district.

The alleged occurrence riots are committed by large crowds trict.

of men armed with thick sticks, and that the tahsíldár and the police officials quietly watch the riots as in lifferent spectators, and sometimes even secretly foment them. Riots have lately occurred at Khudgaon and Kataia, and the offenders are pending trial.

The Azad (Lucknow), of the 14th March, with reference to the approaching revision of Settle-The approaching revision of Settlement in Oudh. ment in Oudh, regrets to notice that the rentroll of a village in the Hardoi district has been found to have been understated by Rs. 2,000. Sir Auckland Colvin is inclined to deal leniently with the landlords, but unfortunate incidents like the one above referred to are calculated to rouse the suspicions of Government, and in that case the honest landlords would suffer with the dishonest ones. other Deputy Commissioners should follow the example of Colonel Pitcher and warn the landlords to check and correct their rentrolls by a certain date. They should be distinctly told that if any landlord's rentrolls are found incorrect after that date, he will be prosecuted. Colonel Pitcher's notice has had a good effect, and the landlords are busy correcting their rentrolls. It is highly desirable that Government should have no suspicions and the province may be saved the trouble and expense usually attending Settlement operations.

The Nasim-i-Agra, of the 15th March, referring to the The grant of copies of rumour that the copyists attached to civil court records. the courts of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges in each district will be transferred to the Judge's court, and that copies of all records will be granted by the Judge's court, considers the proposal open to several objections. The records of a case pending before a Munsif or a Subordinate Judge will have to be sent to the Judge's court every time an application is made for the copy of a

Cicculation, 210 copies.

Circulation 400 copies. document, and the file will have to be carefully extended on each such occasion by the officials in the two courts. There will necessarily be delay in the grant of copies under the new arrangement, and consequently the parties will often try to obtain copies by unfair means, or the vakils will themselves make brief abstracts with pencil, The result will be that the income from copying fees will fall off.

Circulation, 300 copies. The Hálat-i-Hind (Allahabad), for February, complains that those officers who have to do rules of procedure for courts criminal, revenue and other work, chiefly devote their attention to criminal cases, because they are afraid that if there were any delay in the decision of such cases, the High Court would report them to the Local Government. The rent cases are

delay in the decision of such cases, the High Court would report them to the Local Government. The rent cases are postponed by them from day to day, to the great inconvenience of landlords and tenants. Sometimes when they desire to clear their arrears, they take up every kind of work at the same time, freely availing themselves of the assistance of their subordinates. On such occasions their courts resemble more a market-place than a court of justice. In order to put a stop to such an unsatisfactory state of things, Government had better frame rules of procedure for the courts.

The same paper complains that Government officials in districts are generally anxious to dis-The alleged ill-treatment honour and ruin persons of rank and of respectable persons by the district officials. position. Sometimes when an official, on his transfer from one district to another, pays a visit to the central jail in the latter district, and finds no respectable and well-to-do men among the convicts, he expresses surprise and regret at the circumstance. As soon as a complaint is filed before a court against a respectable person, the court issues a summons or warrant against him, even if the complainant is a man of straw and has made, the complaint at the secret instigation of an enemy of the accused. But no prosecution can be instituted against a Government servant, even if he be only a tahsildar or a Deputy Collector, without the permission of the Local Government. Steps should be taken by Government with a view to protect noblemen and gentlemen from such ill-treatment at the hands of the district authorities.

The same paper complains that native Magistrates, as a rule, consider it their duty to punish every man who has the misfortune to be sent before them for trial, even if he be innocent. They think that if they convict and punish a large number of persons, Government will consider them to be able men and will give them promotion. If no other charge can be brought home to an accused person, he is convicted and fined under section 352 of the Penal Code. It is not difficult to understand how far the people can be happy and prosperous when the native Magistrates are actuated by such ideas.

The same paper complains that, on the one hand, the people are being deprived of their property Thefts and robberies and by thieves and robbers, and that, on the police. other, they have to supply food and give bribes to the police who make inquiries into the cases of theft and robbery. The police officials receive good salaries but do not perform their duties properly. Some of them are fond of ease and luxury, and their expenses considerably exceed their salaries. It is almost needless to say that they make good the deficiency by levying blackmail from the people or by sharing with thieves and robbers their ill-gotten gains. One of the principal causes of the prevalence of theft and robbery is that the number of watchmen is comparatively small and that their pay is only Rs. 3 a month, out of which they have to pay the price of their uniform and to give presents to their superior officers and have thus only Rs. 2 left for themselves. number of watchmen should be largely increased in order that

The same paper observes that it would seem that a village chaukidar in the Allahabad district desired to press a man into his service.

The man did not agree. The chaukidar then used force and in the scuffle which

each watchman may have to look after only 25 houses instead

of 100; and they should be distinctly told that if a theft is

committed, the watchman in whose circle the theft occurs will

be dealt with as a thief.

ensued the sleeve of his coat was slightly torn. The police have accused the man of an offence under section 353 of the Penal Code, and the case is pending before Sardár Ganpat Rai, Deputy Collector. No Government servant should carry on any trade or profession. But the village chaukidárs generally carry on the callings of a cultivator, a shepherd and a money-lender. Are they considered Government servants simply in order that they may be able to press people into their service?

The Túti-i-Hind (Meerut), of the 16th February, received on the 17th March, referring to the A. J. Lawrence, Esq., Commissioner of Meerut. Civil Service dinner held at Lucknow on the 7th February, observes that Mr. Lawrence, being the father of the Civil Service in these provinces, presided on the occasion, and referred to Sir William Muir and other Civilians who have been and are the ornaments of the Civil Service, but he himself does not possess even a fraction of Sir William Muir's goodness and popularity. He is a man of ill temper and has always made a free use of kicks and blows. His entrance to the Civil Service was a great mistake. He should have entered the Military Service. He always talks with natives in a loud tone of voice with a view to overawe them. During his interview with a well-to-do native of the Meerut Division, whose permanent income is equal to the pay of a Lieutenant-Governor, he drew the attention of the gentleman to a thick stick shod with iron placed in a corner of his room, and told him that the native princes used to get criminals beaten with such sticks; that he had many such sticks; and that if he had the gentleman beaten with the stick, the latter would be killed. The gentleman was of course quite astonished and frightened. It is not difficult to understand how far such kind of talk befits a Civilian, especially one who holds a high position like Mr. Lawrence. Sir Ackland Colvin, who is the head of the Local Government, and is famous for his ability and politeness, was the proper man to preside at the dinner.

Circulation, 240 cories A correspondent of the Azúd (Lucknow), of the 14th March, asks the Government of these propium-smóking in the vinces to follow the example of the Panjáb.

Panjáb Government and to take steps with a view to check the use of madak and chandu, and

beerves that in no other place are there vile drugs so largely used as at Lucknow.

The Oudh Akhbar (Lucknow), of the 15th March, gives

The laying of the foundation stone of the Colvin Institute, Lucknow.

The Oudh Akhbar (Lucknow), of the 15th March, gives
a brief account of the laying of the
foundation stone of the Colvin Institute
by the Lieutenant-Governor on the

Circulation, 550 copies.

11th idem, publishing in extenso the address presented by the Oudh Talukdárs on the occasion, and His Honor's reply to it; and expresses satisfaction that they have succeeded in giving effect to their scheme regarding the provision of education for their sons.

The Azad (Lucknow), of the 14th March, publishes a letter received from a talukdár who The same. congratulates the Talukdárs of Oudh and Sir Auckland Colvin on the laying of the foundation stone of the Colvin Institute, and observes that he will be doubly glad when he sees education spreading among the sons of the It is necessary for the success of the institution talukdárs. that suitable provision be made for its expenses. It has been proposed that the maximum rate of schooling fee should be fixed at Rs. 20 a month, and that any deficiency in the income of the institute should he made good by grants from the funds of the Canning College and the Anjuman. This is as it should be. The talukadirs should be thankful to Sir Auckland Colvin for providing means of education for them.

The grant of remissions glad to notice that Government has sand suspensions of revenue in the Sháhjahánpur district.

Sions of revenue to those landholders in the district who deserve such indulgence, owing to the severe damage done to crops by hail, and observes that Government deserves high praise for this act of generosity.

LEGISLATION.

The Alam-i-Taswir (Cawnpore), of the 11th March,
Bill for the amendment observes that some newspapers have
of Act XXV of 1867. supported Mr. Hutchins' Bill and
have declared that the supply of three copies of a book to

Circulation, 240 copies.

Circulaton, 240 copies, Government free of charge should not press heavily on the publisher or author, as he already presents a number of copies to his friends. But the publishers or authors present copies to their friends in return for favours received or expected in future; but they can expect no such favours from Government. If some publishers have been found to have taken from Government more than the ordinary price of their books, the provisions of section 10 of Act XXV of 1867 should be altered by all means, with a view to prevent the occurrence of such a thing in future. The section should provide that Government will pay for the books at such rates as it deems proper with reference to the cost of paper and printing. Hutchins is as much justified in requiring publishers to supply copies of their books to Government free of charge, on account of some publishers having taken more than the ordinary price from Government, as a Doctor would be in recommending the head of a patient, who suffers from scrofula, to be cut off.

EDUCATION.

Circulation, 76 copies.

With the State of the state of

The Almora Akhbár, of the 10th March, argues that one

The increase in the rates of the school fees and the poorer classes in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

of the greatest benefits which the British Government has bestowed on this country is the encouragement of the spread of education among all classes.

been made in the rates of school fees of late. The increase in the fees has given a rude shock to the cause of education, and there has been a large falling off in the number of students. It is believed that in 1887-88 the total number of boys in the primary schools in these provinces was 155,761, and in the secondary schools 28,219, and that the figures for the year 1888-89 are 139,122 and 24,261 respectively. The decrease in the number of scholars was attended with a reduction of Rs. 68,000 in the public expenditure. The Almora Akhbar does not mean that Government should bear the entire cost of public instruction, but that Government should see that the increase in the rates of fees does not tend to exclude the children of the poorer classes from schools. The students

had better be charged fees according to the income of their parents, the sons of the poor, who cannot afford to pay any fees, being altogether exempted from such payment.

POST-OFFICE AND RAILWAY.

The Almora Akhbár, of the 10th March, urges that Government should introduce new postsuggestion regarding the introduction of pie postcards the price of which should not exceed one pie, though they may be much smaller in size than the quarter-anna post-cards at present in use. The introduction of pie post-cards would be a great boon to the poorer classes, and would also increase the postal revenues.

Circulation, 100 copies.

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Circulation, 76 copies.

The Tazib (Moradabad), of the 5th March, complains that a letter which was clearly address—The alleged misdeliveries ed to the editor was misdelivered by the post-office to his namesake, Haji Muzaffar Ali Khín, who lives in another part of the town. The Haji, without taking the trouble to read the address, opened the letter and sent it to the editor after a week. Such misdeliveries of letters frequently occur. The postal authorities should warn the sorting clerks to be more careful.

mplains Circulation, 300 copies.

treated

The Hindustáni (Lucknow), of the 9th March, complains that the natives employed on the Oudh The supply of clothing to and Rohilkhand Railway are treated natives employed on the Oudh and Rohilkhand line. with great severity. Eighteen rupees were deducted from their salaries on account of the winter clothing supplied to them. Each of them could privately get such a suit of clothing made at half the price. similar deduction will shortly be made from their pay on account of summer clothing. The Europeans and Eurasians get their uniform free of charge. If any native raises the least objection, he is threatened with dismissal. The arrangements for the supply of clothing have naturally created great dissatisfaction among the native officials, whose pay does not exceed Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 a month. The deduction of half their pay for two or three months must press heavily on them. If they receive unlawful gratifications under such circumstances, they are not much to blame.

Circulation, 300 copies.

The Hindustáni (Lucknow), of the 9th March, on the supply of water to passengers on the Jhánsi-Mathat no arrangements have been made nikpur line.

for the supply of water to native passengers on the Jhánsi-Manikpur line, and asks the railway authorities to give their immediate attention to the matter, as the hot weather has set in.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Circulation,

The Prayág Samáchár (Allahabad), of the 10th March, Cases of theft at Allahabad. complains that a night burglary was lately committed at the shop of Hanuman Prasad, cloth merchant, in the Allahabad city. The thieves carried away as much property as they could, and afterwards set fire to the shop. On the 3rd March another case of night burglary occurred at the house of one Lalawin Khurdabad, who lost Rs. 6,000 cash and Rs. 1,000 worth of jewellery. What are the police about? Crowds of bad characters are to be found sauntering freely about the streets.

Circulation, 400 copies.

A correspondent of the Nasim-i-Agra, of the 15th March, is glad to state that a public associa-The establishment of the Mahájani Sabha at Jhánsi. tion, called the Mahajani Sabha, consisting of the leading men of every trade and profession, has been established at Jhansi, with a view to represent the local wants and grievances to the proper authorities: The formation of the association is chiefly due to the misbehaviour of native soldiers towards women. The soldiers used to sing obscene songs and even to commit indecent assaults on respectable women in the public streets and thoroughfares. The principal residents of the town, being anxious to put a stop to the evil, established the Sabha and brought the misconduct of the soldiers to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, who reported the matter to the military authori-Soldiers have been strictly forbidden by the military officers to sing obscene songs or to misbehave themselves in other ways.

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